

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejection, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks that follow. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-16, 18-22, 24-27, and 32-37 are pending in the application. Claim 27 has been allowed. Claims 15, 16, and 23 were characterized as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 23, which as noted above, the Examiner has described as allowable subject matter. Consequently, claim 23 has been cancelled. New claim 32 represents the subject matter of original claim 15 rewritten in independent form. Again, the Examiner has indicated that this subject matter would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claim 33 represents the subject matter of original claim 16, which the Examiner has also indicated would be allowable. New claims 34-37 all depend from claim 32 and, thus, should also be allowable in light of the previous indication of the allowability of original claim 15. New claims 34-37 are supported throughout the specification and in the original claims, such as original claims 10, 11, 18, and 19. It is respectfully submitted that the above claim amendments place all claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-14, 18-22, and 24-26 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,174,720 to Hall in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,115,085 to Deal. Although Applicants do not acquiesce to this rejection, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended all claims of record to incorporate the subject matter of either original claim 23 or original claim 15, both of which the Examiner has indicated contain allowable subject matter. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot as applied to the claims of record. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the originally claimed subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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